

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 30, 2005 has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Crane.

Claims 8, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Crane in view of the patent to Conrad.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Crane in view of the patent to Simington.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Crane, it can be seen that this patent discloses a bridle bit in which the mouth piece C, C does not press on the tongue of the horse when the reins are loose, but instead is pushed upwardly by

a spring E against a rigid bar A that passes through the mouth. The presence of the rigid bar A prevents the bit from conforming to the mouth of the horse. In the rejection the Examiner seems to ignore the "consisting" language used in connection with defining the mouthpiece. In the present invention the mouthpiece consists of at most two side parts, which can be placed between the upper and lower jaws and extend crosswise through the mouth. In Crane the mouthpiece has more than the two parts C, C mentioned by the Examiner, there is also the bar A. Crane thus does not disclose a bit having a mouthpiece consisting of two pieces, as in the presently claimed invention. Applicant has attached a copy of the drawings of Crane with the bar A indicated in purple and the two bars C, C indicated in blue and orange, respectively.

Furthermore, the bar A of Crane, on which the bars C, C are supported, rests with all its weight solely on the bottom small jaw bone, and during use is pressed additionally by the reins against the lower jaw bone. This is completely different from the construction of the presently claimed invention. Crane discloses a bit with a one piece bar A and additional actuation elements C, C that are provided for the purpose of inflicting pain on the horse. This type of insert has not been permitted for use with

horses for years. As Crane states at line 15, his bit is intended for controlling vicious horses.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The remaining references which the Examiner combined with Crane in rejecting claims 8-11 have also been considered and discussed in previous amendments. None of these references provide any teaching which when taken in the combinations argued by the Examiner would lead to the presently claimed invention as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

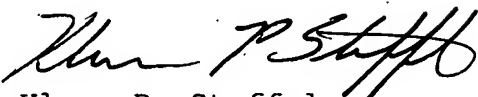
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connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 30, 2006.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: January 30, 2006